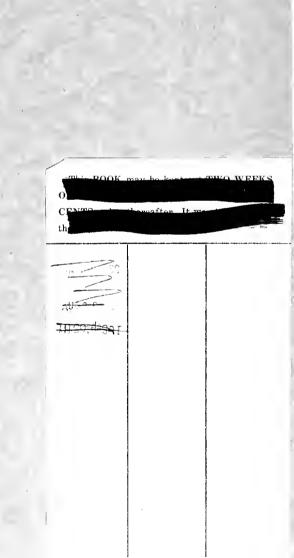


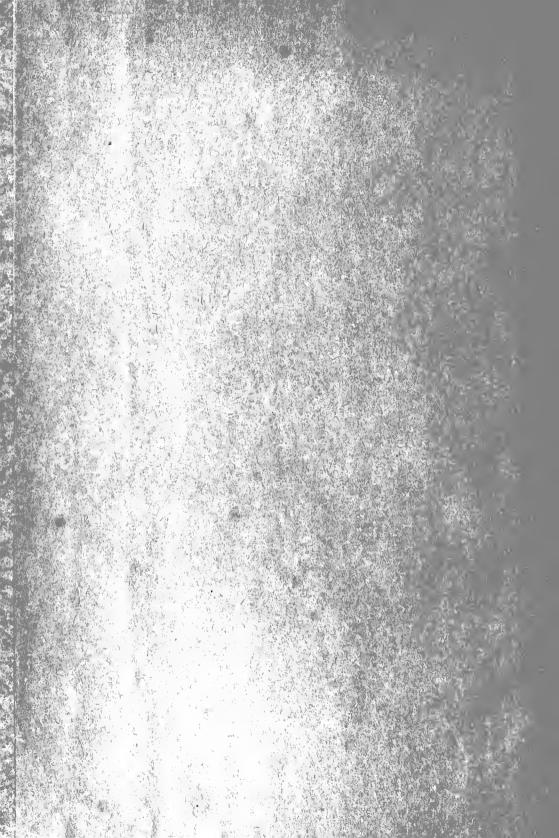
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MONA

An Opera in Three Acts THE POEM BY BRIAN HOOKER THE MUSIC BY HORATIO PARKER



VOCAL SCORE

Price \$4.00 net



NEW YORK: G. SCHIRMER

Boston: The Boston Music Co.



192142

MONA

AN OPERA IN THREE ACTS

CHARACTERS OF THE DRAMA

The Roman Governor of Britain Baritone

Quintus, his son, known among the Britons

as Gwynn Heroic Tenor

Arth, a British tribesman Bass

Enya, his wife Soprano

Gloom, their son, a Druid Baritone

Caradoc, the chief Bard of Britain Baritone

Nial, a changeling Lyric Tenor

Mona, Princess of Britain and last of the line of Boadicea; foster-child of Arth and Enya Dramatic Soprano

(Mezzo)

ROMAN SOLDIERS; DRUIDS, BARDS; BRITONS, BOTH MEN AND WOMEN

The place is southwestern Britain; the time, about A. D. 100

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Story of the Opera*

MONA

ACT I

Morning in midsummer. Arth's hut: a primitive and rather sombre interior of rough wood and stone, lighted only from the doorway, to the rear above which appears the Druidic sign of the Unspeakable Name, and from the opening in the roof to the right, through which the smoke of the fire ascends. Enva busy about the house, Nial lying by the fire, Mona and Gwynn in the foreground. Gwynn pleads with Mona to fulfil her troth to him, long since She answers that in his absence her old dreams of war and the Roman oppressor hurled back into the sea and of some great part for herself in the freeing of Britain have pressed closer, driving the thought of him away. Against Enva's protest she shows him on her breast the sign of the Name wherewith she was born; declaring herself set apart by that sign for some great destiny above womanhood. Gwynn urges that her fancies are mere loneliness, and that whatever her destiny may be they can fulfil it better together; while Nial asks innocently if God's name is written upon those who may not love. Mona relates a dream of walking between a storm-darkened forest and a raging sea; she had a naked sword, wherewith she drove back the billows that poised to plunge down upon her; but there came a veiled white figure with no face and tried to take the sword away; and when she slew him therewith the waves broke and the forest fell and overwhelmed her. This dream neither Gwynn nor Enva can interpret. Arth, entering, hurls at Mona's feet the sword of a Roman soldier whom he has encountered and slain; and Mona recognizes the sword of her dream. Gwynn eensures Arth for wanton folly in breaking the peace; Arth retorts with a furious tirade against Rome, in which the women hysterically join; but Gwynn prevails, and sends Arth out to bury the body. Gwynn illustrates the use of the sword with unconscious enthusiasm. Enya grows suspicious, and Mona, erying out that he looks like a Roman soldier, snatches it from him, and in so doing wounds his arm. As they stand aghast at the omen, Gloom enters and confirms it; prophesving that Gwynn shall die by that same blade. He sends away the women and ushers in Arth and Caradoc, who proposes a solemn oath of secreey and union. Gwynn, suspecting conspiracy, is unwilling to swear himself blindly into their fellowship; but lest the secret of his own birth

"This opera won the prize offered by the Metropolitan Opera Company for the best grand opera, written in English and composed by an American.

be suspected and he lose Mona and all his influence for peace, is constrained to yield. Caradoc administers the oath with Druidic ritual; then tells Gwynn that Britain is ripe for a universal uprising, and that Mona by her descent from Boadicea and by signs and prophecies is ordained to be their leader. Gwynn furiously protests, but is overruled by Caradoc and Gloom. Mona is brought in to choose between her love and her mission. Caradoc formally recognizes her as the predestined leader. Gwynn does his utmost to hold her; but Gloom, artfully playing upon her dream and sneering at her love as a trifle, is too strong for him. She flies into an eestasy, waving her sword and calling down ruin upon Rome. Gwynn is driven away and banished. As he disappears into the forest, Mona suddenly drops the sword, crying out his name, and breaks into tears.

ACT II

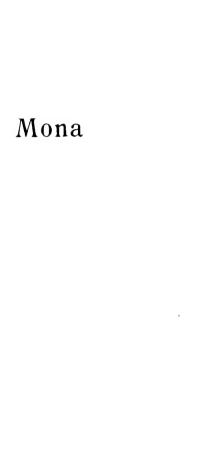
The Cromlech in the forest: A huge oak tree A month later. Evening. in the centre; at its foot an altar graven with the Sign of the Name; behind that, a crumbling stone wall in the form of a semicircle; and behind this, deep forest, through which appear the great standing stones of the outer circle. Nial alone, dancing with his shadow. In monologue he declares himself happier, being a changeling with no soul, brother to all the wild things of the earth, than his wise friends whose souls torment them. The Governor, entering at the head of a scouting party, captures him and questions him as to the evident signs of a recent gathering there; but Nial, fearless through sheer ignorance of harm, refuses to answer. As he is about to be tortured, Gwynn suddenly appears and interposes. The Governor questions him about the reported rebellion, adding that Gwynn is freely accused of treason in siding with the Britons. Gwynn, refusing to break his oath by revealing their plans, yet claims as his own work the peace of the past years, and promises that through Mona and his own influence as a Bard the threatened uprising shall be averted. The Governor is for crushing the conspiracy by immediate force, but is at length brought to refrain on condition that Gwynn shall hold the tribes from any overt act of war. On this Gwynn stakes everything and sets out to guide his father back to the Roman After a momentary soliloquy by Nial in the gathering darkness, Mona and Gloom enter together. They have been going about the country preparing universal rebellion; and on that night they themselves are to lead the attack upon the Roman town, whose flames will be the signal for a general uprising. Mona, inspired with the ecstasy of her mission, yet dreads their own opening battle, upon which all depends. In the enthusiasm of his reassurance, Gloom throws off the mask of priesthood and brotherliness, avowing open love of her. She silences him by turning against him his own teaching that she is not woman but a sword. After a short collogny with Arth and Enya, in which Mona relates her trimmphant progress among the tribes, the others go to prepare for the sacrifice which is to initiate the battle, leaving Mona praying alone in the moonlight before the altar. Gwynn, entering, brushes aside the frozen holiness with which she had crushed Gloom, by defying her to call in the Druids and have him put to death; and catching her in his arms, so prevails upon her by the sheer reality of their love that she is for the moment utterly his own, wishing only to forget all else. In premature triumph, he tells her that their union shall unite Britain and Rome, and goes on to reveal the secret of his birth. But she, understanding merely that he is a Roman, without waiting to hear the rest, cries out for help. Gloom and Arth rush in, followed by Bards and Druids and a frantic horde of Britons. Gwynn is about to be torn in pieces when Mona, nnable to see him slain, checks herself in the very word of denouncing him as a spy, and reminds them that he is a Bard whose person is sacred; then, bidding them make him prisoner unhurt, she hurries on the preparations for the attack. Men and women bring torches, weapons, and materials of war. The Bards and Druids gather about the altar, where Mona, Gloom and Caradoc, to the music of a barbaric chant, perform the ceremony of blessing and distributing the swords. As they receive their weapons the priests rush out to lead the onslaught, followed by the tribesmen; until the stage is left empty and dark but for Enya, who throws herself sobbing at the foot of the altar as the sound of the singing dies away in the forest.

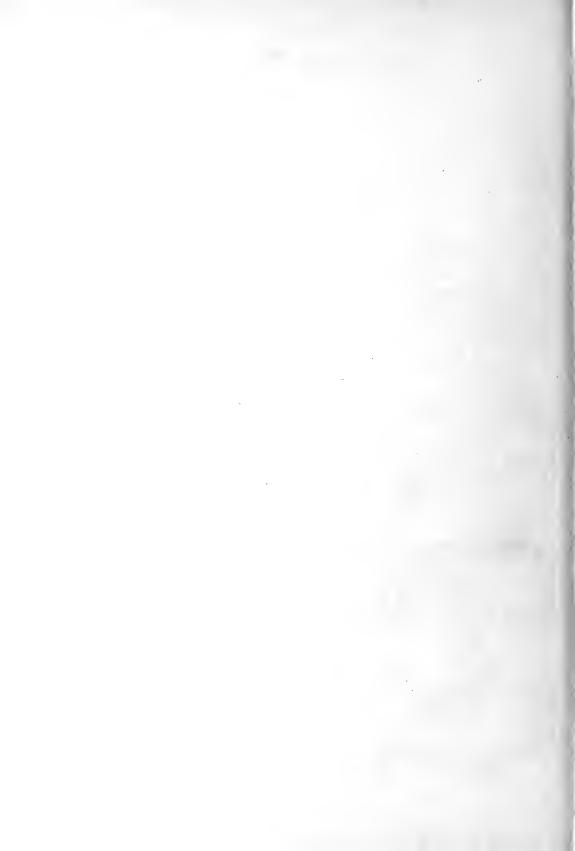
ACT III

The same night, just before dawn. A plateau on the edge of the forest; across a valley, the Roman town in the distance. Enya and Nial come to watch and wait for tidings of the attack. Her agony of suspense and foreboding contrasts with his innocent unconcern. Instead of the expected beacon-signals of victory, scattered fugitives rush past: and from one of these Enya learns that the attack is crushed. Nial, with unconscious irony, protests that the news must be false, since God had promised them victory. Mona, stunned with shame and exhaustion, is dragged in by Gloom, who is himself mortally wounded. He confirms the tidings of defeat: the Roman garrison, swelled to an overwhelming force, was awaiting them under arms; Arth is dead; it is all over but paying the price. Mona despairs over her people who have trusted her vainly through her own vain trust in her mission; and searches her conscience for some fault or failure of her own that has ruined all. But Gloom, with savage cynicism, retorts that they have only dressed their own desires in fine names like every one else; Mona was moved by a girl's vanity of greatness, himself by lust of power and rivalry with Gwynn; the rest was self-deception. And Mona, shocked and shaken, fixes upon her love for Gwynn as the weakness that has destroyed her work: she has saved his life, knowing him to be a Roman spy and a traitor to her people. The appearance of Gwynn, who has escaped from his guards, confirms her belief that it was he who warned the Romans. Gwynn tells them that he is the son of the Governor with authority to speak for Rome, and tries to induce her to aid him in preventing further bloodshed. But it is too late for the truth:

Gloom receives it with mere derision; and Mona, taking it for the keystone upon an arch of lies, works herself into a vengeful holiness as she listens to his protestations. At last she pretends to yield, and as he catches her in his arms stabs him with her Roman sword. In the pause that follows, Nial sees through the grev twilight of dawn the soul of Gwynn floating like a bright shadow above him and seeming to listen and to wait. The sound of an approaching army is heard in the distance, and presently the Governor enters at the head of his legions. Discovering Gwynn's body, he tells them furiously that in slaving his son, the one Roman who befriended them and who had wasted himself to save them from their own folly, they have destroyed their last hope of mercy. Mona avows her deed, and he promises her full time in which to pay. She, at length understanding all Gwynn's truth and her own error, takes farewell of him, laving the sword across his breast: saving that in seeking great deeds beyond love and above beauty she has done only what she must have done being herself; that the ordinary happiness through which she might have accomplished her mission was too small and too near; and regretting most that she cannot follow Gwynn to an honorable death. She bends down and kisses him on the forehead, then, rising, stands umong the soldiers while they bind her hands, bidding them take their will of her; and adding, as the curtain falls, "I have had great dreams—only great dreams. . . . A woman would have won."

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Mona

An Opera in Three Acts

ACT I

THE SCENE represents the interior of Arth's hut in the forest; a rough structure of logs and thatch. To the left, a large hearth of rough stone on which a fire is burning; oaken settles about the walls; to the right, a rough table, with benches and a wooden stool; above this, a door into an inner room; in the rear wall, a large doorway, curtained with skins, on the lintel of which appears the Sign /N of the Unspeakable Name, showing that a Druid has his dwelling there. Sunlit forest without.

THE TIME, morning in midsummer.

The curtain-rise discovers MONA seated by the table; ENYA above; GWYNN standing near the centre of the stage; and NIAL lying on a bearskin by the fire.













































































































the curtain across the doorway, cutting off the sunlight. After making the sign of the Name he ad-51 vances to Gwynn, and picks up the sword, looking from it to Gwynn's bleeding arm.) Gloom Sempre adagio Bythat same blade it is thy 8 ppr.h. Gloom! Animato Gwynn be slain by pro-phe-cies, doom to die. Con moto moderato ill-will! Gloom (to Enya, and giving Mona the sword.) Moth-er, take Mo-na hence; Con moto moderato allargando 3 p(Mona and Enya go out R.) Tell áll her. Thou needs to know-est she know.

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THE SCENE represents a Cromlech, or Druidic open-air temple in the forest: a semicircular stone wall, low and ruinous, with openings at each side and at the rear; behind this a larger semicircle of huge single stones some distance apart; and beyond this again, dim forest. In the centre, a large oak-tree overspreading the entire scene; at its foot, an altar composed of one great block of stone, graven with the Sign of the Name.

THE TIME, evening, a month later.

The curtain-rise discovers NIAL alone within the circle, dancing with his shadow.























































































































































































(A mob of Britons, shouting and brandishing weapons, rush upon the stage, followed by

L'istesso tempo ma sempre più animato

























(Mona, Gloom and Caradoc at the altar. Enya and Arth among the crowd. The movement and preparation continue with increasing system and regularity)







(During the following stanza, the swords are ceremonially given out to Bards and Druids by Mona, assisted by Gloom and Caradoc)

























(---so that at the end, the stage is left empty and dark. Enya alone remains, prostrate and sobbing before the altar --- and the sound of the attack dies away in the distance)



End of Act II

АСТ Ш

THE SCENE represents the mouth of a mountain-gorge opening to the south over a steep declivity, showing far below a wide stretch of meadow, and beyond this the Roman town in the distance. On the left, dense forest; on the right, the corner of a jutting mass of cliffs, behind which a path runs diagonally down to the plain. Near the end of this path, a fallen tree; to the left and farther down, a large boulder.

THE TIME, before dawn of the following morning.

The curtain rises on a dark and empty stage; moving lights visible in the distance, about the Roman town.



















































































































fainting, upon the rocks. Enya bends over him. Nial gazes curiously into the air above Gwynn's body)











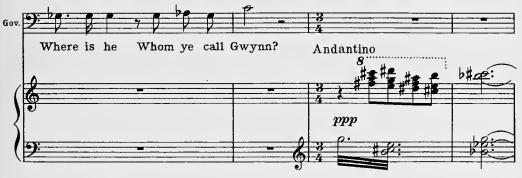


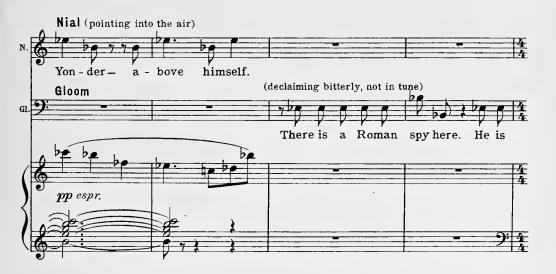






(Mona is surrounded by the soldiers, and disarmed. The Governor looks from her to the others)

















(A soldier gives him Mona's sword. He takes it mechanically, and stands still gazing at the body)











































